

From the Lexington Times.
COUNTY PRINTING.

It is gratifying to know that a better order of things is beginning to prevail in Kansas, in regard to county printing. Heretofore County Boards have in many instances let out the job printing and advertising of their respective counties upon "lost throat bids," frequently giving the work to tramps and irresponsible parties, much to the prejudice and injury of the legitimate, established newspapers. The fees to be paid for nearly all kinds of county printing are fixed by State law, at rates that allow just a fair living compensation for doing the work—as low as any printer can do it and make wages. But, as we have said above, these rates have frequently been cut down by County Boards by receiving bids from irresponsible parties, as less than living rates, who expect to "get even" by cheating the county in the quality of the work done. This has long been recognized as an evil. Where a publisher has invested his money in his office, and is giving his time and labor to the work of building up the county, his efforts are of great value to the whole community, and it is neither fair nor right to compel him to bid against some tramp who comes in with a few fous of type, who has no interest in the county or its people, and who expect to stay only long enough to do the county work and get his pay. Yet such cases have been common in the past all over Kansas, and the bona fide publishers of the State have been greatly injured thereby. The people have also been discommoded by this practice, to a very great extent, by having the tax list, sheriff's sales and other legal advertisements published in obscure papers. But a large number of the counties of the State have already discontinued this unwise policy, and the following opinion recently given by the Attorney General of the State will probably cause all the other counties to do likewise. Having been applied to for information in regard to the power of County Boards in the premises, the Attorney General, after a careful examination of the laws bearing upon the subject, furnishes an opinion concluding as follows:

Having said this much, I conclude that, as to all printing required to be done for the county, and for which the fees are fixed by section seventeen, article two, chapter twenty-five, general statutes 1892, the County Commissioners have exclusive power to designate the printer or printers who shall do the work, and the paper or papers, in which the advertisements shall be printed, but they have no power to change the fees fixed therefor; nor is there any law authorizing them to dispose of the county printing by bids.

2. If there be any portion of county printing required by the act of 1872, or any other law, and for which the fees are not fixed, then they have exclusive control as to the amount of compensation, and may fix such rates as they may deem proper or can contract for.

3. I think the printer is entitled to the fees fixed by law for any part of the printing which he may contract to do for the county.

WILLARD DAVIS, Attorney General.

Referring to the foregoing the Paola Spirit says:

Inasmuch as the County Board of Miami County meets next Monday for the purpose of letting the county printing to the lowest bidder, we think they should take official notice of the above decision of the Attorney General of the State. It has always appeared ridiculous to us that the county board had the power to change a statute fixing a fee for certain kinds of advertising. Under this decision of the Attorney General the county of Miami actually owes the Western Spirit about \$2,000 for which we could sue and get judgment. Under the circumstances we do think we are privileged to urge the county board to hereafter do justice to the printers of this county. We do not want to "play the hog," but simply ask that what work we do shall be paid for at the rate fixed by law.

Considering this thing further, we find that some of our Courts had previously taken this same view of the case. Judge W. B. Perkins has recently decided a county printing case in Cherokee county, and his decision in regard to this tax list was as follows:

This tax list provided just what should be paid to the printer, and did not allow the county to speculate on the cost of such advertising; that the county had no right to a cent of the money collected, and there was no provision which entitled it to take the amount paid to the treasurer in excess of that paid to the printer, and that the commissioners had no control over the tax list except to see that the bills presented were correct, and it correct to pay the same.

The Spirit here calls attention to the fact that over twenty counties in the state have this year let their printing at legal rates, without receiving bids, and then adds:

We do not deny the right under the law, of the county board to name the county printer and the official paper, but under the above decision it is perfectly plain that they have no more right to let the county printing to the lowest bidder than they have to contract to let out the work of the register of deeds or clerk of the court to the lowest bidder. The fees are fixed by the statute. The law simply gives the board the right to say what paper shall do the printing.

The Spirit, the Miami Republican and Lexington Herald could all bring actions against the county and recover from it the difference between the contract price paid for advertising, during the last six or seven years, and the price fixed by law.

President Hayes has consulted Senator Plumb of Kansas, and received from him some very good advice on the civil service question. It is to be hoped that he will also consult Plumb on the money question and adjust his financial policy by the Plumb line. It would save him and the country a world of trouble that must follow the veto of the silver bill.—[Kansas City Times.

SWEET AND TENDER.

The musical muse of the St. Louis Journal has a tender passion. The following simple and plaintive lines, "Grease the Griddle, Birdie Darling," has a sweet melody, and is arranged for banjo shop guitars and French harps—
Grease the Griddle, Birdie Darling—
Grease it 'er with lambent Lord,
Pour the Buckwheat Batter on it
From the Bowl so Brown and Hard.
And in order that the Buckwheats
Be not scorched and Burned and Sear,
Grease the Griddle in Profusion—
Grease the Griddle, Birdie, dear.

EDWARDS COUNTY.

From the Kinsley Republican.

Seventy shares have been taken in the Arkansas Valley Building Association.

A newspaper is deserving of success in proportion to the enterprise displayed in the interests of its town and patrons.

Dave Braden shot a fine antelope Wednesday afternoon. He and Mr. Ford were out a few miles up the river, and the beauty was brought to with a shot gun.

Peter Trayner, of Callicoon, arrived with more than fifty men, women and children, the advance guard of the United Colony of Western New York, to which referred some weeks ago. A special car was placed at their disposal, which the families occupied on the side track here yesterday. They go out on their claims to-day, a few miles north of town. Hundreds more will soon follow.

A Fitchburg correspondent writes: Wheat looks very promising, and our farmers are busily pushing their plowing during every warm spell. The past three days of snow and storm will cool off their ardor for that style of recreation for a few days to come. Spring wheat, barley and oat ground is now ready for the seed hereabouts, to the extent of many hundreds of acres, and the groans of the growers are now ascending to the skies that there is a likelihood of thousands of bushels of fifteen cent grain to be sold here next fall. Let us grow it first and then grow!

Pedigree of the "Stone Man."

The true history of the "Colorado petrified man," that was exhibited recently in this city is given in the New York Tribune of the 24th. It was made at Elkland, a little mountain town in Northern Pennsylvania, near the New York State line, by George Hull, the maker of the Cardiff Giant. P. T. Barnum became interested in the scheme, and supplied part of the capital. The figure was taken to Colorado, buried there near Barnum's sheep ranche, and finally dug up, in accordance with a carefully arranged plan. An adroit deception was practiced in regard to the results of the scientific test, which it was claimed was made. Ground stone, ground bones, clay, plaster, blood, eggs and other materials were used in forming the image, which was then baked for weeks in a kiln. Hull had intended for a long time to deceive the public with this pretended petrification, and had spent much time and several thousand dollars in experiments.

Be True.

Never desert your friends. If you do not stand by them you need not expect them to stand by you. So, whether they be friends of high or low degree, in affluence or poverty, stick to them, and don't stop to inquire whether it will pay or whether it will be popular. Whenever you prove traitor and desert those who have stood up for you and helped your battles, you will find yourself without any one to congratulate you upon your achievements, or comfort you in an evil hour when misfortune comes thick and fast.

By a recent order of the postmaster general, postmasters are required to keep a "complaint book," in which they will enter all complaints made to them by patrons of their respective offices, of losses of letters and other irregularities in mail matters, and after thorough investigation report the same to the department. This will make more work for the postmasters, but may be of some benefit to the public.

In the mail sack which arrived at Pueblo from the east, recently, was found a quantity of fried oysters and the dilapidated remains of a pasteboard box which had once contained them. They were sent from New York to a gentleman in that country, and by the time he receives them they are likely to become somewhat dry, and to some extent seasoned with sand and dust. Mail bags contain queer things sometimes.

The prospects of a first class newspaper row, which were so bright a few days ago, are knocked in the head by the Dodge City Times publishing an extract from a Denver Tribune editorial, in which it says "If you wish to outstrip a rival journal never enter into a course of personal abuse of its editor." Sensible.—[Hays City Star.

The contract of the Pullman sleeping car company with most of the western roads is about to expire. The probabilities are, the rates will be reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.00 per berth, as that is the price charged by other sleeping car companies.

We have no hard rains in Kansas now. The rains are all easy—just as easy as anything can be.

There are sixty-three cheese factories located within the bounds of Kansas.

A coward never forgave; it is not his nature.—[Storrie.

The editor of the Great Bend Register is the possessor of three shirts, by actual count.

Senator Plumb has introduced a bill providing for the disposition of timber and timberlands of the United States.

Kentucky is great. It has a cow that eats chickens, a mule that lays eggs and hatches them in a mare's nest.

The loveliest faces are to be seen by moonlight, when one sees half with the eye and half with the fancy.

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company have for sale over 3,300,000 acres of land.

The most fascinating women are those who can most enrich the everyday moments of existence. They are those who can partake of our pleasures and our pains in the liveliest and most devoted manner. Beauty is but little without this: with it she is triumphant.

G. M. HOOVER

WHOLESALE DEALER IN

WINES,
LIQUORS
AND
CIGARS

Manufacturer of

SODA WATER,

Sarsaparilla and Cider.

AGENT FOR VAL ELITE'S

Milwaukee Bottled Beer.

No. 39, FRONT ST., DODGE CITY, KAS

BEATTY & KELLEY,

PROPRIETORS OF THE

Dodge City Restaurant.

Best Restaurant in the City.

12 MEALS AT ALL HOURS.

FRESH OYSTERS CONSTANTLY ON HAND.

HERMAN J. FRINGER,

DEALER IN

Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals
AND PERFUMERY

Toilet Goods, Brushes, Sponges, Dye Stuffs,
Paino, Oils, Etc.

DODGE CITY, KANSAS.

H. B. BELL



Livery, Feed and Sale Stables.

DODGE CITY, KANSAS.

Good rigs furnished at reasonable rates.
Stock boarded by the day or week.

WRIGHT, BEVERLEY & CO.

DEALERS IN

All Kinds of Outfitting Goods,

AMMUNITION!

Groceries, Provisions,

DODGE CITY, KANSAS.

H. P. NIESS,

Manufacturer and Dealer in

BOOTS AND SHOES,

DODGE CITY, KANSAS.

Repairing done on short notice in the very best manner and at reasonable rates.

NEW BOOT & SHOE SHOP.

MUELLER & STRAETER

Are now prepared to do first-class work of every kind.

Nice-Fitting Boots a Specialty.

Prices low. Shop at Mueller's old stand.
2-25

DODGE CITY TOWN CO

Town Lots For Sale!

Prices to Suit All Parties!

APPLY TO W. S. TREMAINE,

Secretary and Treasurer,

Dr. T. L. McCARTHY'S DRUG STORE.